

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CADET COLONEL
SEGIE RAY MCCLENDON III

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Cadet Colonel Seggie Ray McClendon III, who is Jackson Public Schools' JROTC Cadet of the Year for 2013. The Wingfield High School senior had earned many JROTC and school awards and has received countless other awards on the local and state level. Cadet McClendon serves as Mr. Wingfield, Mr. JROTC, and as the Cadet Battalion Commander for the Falcon Battalion.

Cadet McClendon has been accepted to attend several colleges and universities in Mississippi, including Jackson State University, Alcorn State University, Mississippi State University, Mississippi Valley State University, Hinds Community College, and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. His military goal is to receive an active duty commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army.

Cadet McClendon competed for this honor against the top cadets from each of the seven JPS high schools. The Cadet of the Year candidates were required to appear before an eight-person selection panel of District administrator, military officials, and business leaders.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Cadet Colonel Seggie Ray McClendon III.

HONORING THE WORLD WAR II
VETERANS OF NEW YORK'S HUD-
SON VALLEY

HON. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor dozens of World War II veterans and volunteers traveling to our nation's capital, many seeing for the first time the memorials that stand as a tribute to their selfless service.

As a son of a Navy veteran, it is a tremendous honor to welcome these American heroes to Washington, and I am proud to accompany them on a visit to the United States World War II Memorial, in recognition of their service to our nation.

We owe these brave veterans a debt of gratitude. They stood in defense of our freedoms and the freedoms of those around the world, and their sacrifice has made our country and the world a safer place. Our nation can never fully repay our veterans for their service, but we can continue to honor all the brave veterans who fought for our country and the many who gave their lives in defense of our way of life.

Mr. Speaker, today we should honor the sacrifices of these brave veterans from the Hudson Valley who bravely stood up in defense of our freedoms. Please join me in thanking these American veterans for their tremendous service to an eternally grateful nation.

HONORING LINDA KAY MCKIM

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Linda Kay McKim. Linda was a very special individual whose life was an example of courage and patriotism.

In 1966, Linda married Hosein Radmanesh, an Iranian foreign-exchange student at Northeast Missouri State University in Kirksville, Missouri. Together, they would have two children and move to Iran, where Linda was routinely mocked and cursed at for being an American Christian. Her entire family was imprisoned during the Iranian Revolution, beginning in 1979. There she was beaten and offered clemency if she renounced the United States, but she held on to her faith and her patriotism throughout the ordeal. In 1986, she escaped from Iran with her daughter, followed the next year by her son and husband. After returning to Kirksville, she worked as a health and nutrition aide at Residential Care and Grimm Smith Hospital, and was a member of First Assembly of God in Kirksville.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the family of Linda Kay McKim for her inspirational life and her dedication to her faith, her family, and her country.

HONORING THE UNITED STATES
CONSTITUTION

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the United States Constitution.

Among our nation's founding documents, the Constitution stands out for its singular importance, ingenuity, and lasting effect on global politics. Since its drafting in 1787, the Constitution has continued to inspire generations of people committed to making democracy work.

In their brilliant defense of the Constitution, Founders such as James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay discussed the delicate balance of power engineered in this document. It is important to remember their words today and the role that Congress plays in oversight of the other branches of government.

We should voice support for programs that aim to educate our nation's students on these

fundamental Constitutional principles. The next generation of leaders must understand the workings of our government and the historic role the Constitution has played in our national story.

I am pleased to recognize a Colorado organization that promotes this very idea throughout the country. Liberty Day provides educators and students with free Constitutions, copies of the Declaration of Independence, and other landmark American documents. Efforts like these increase awareness and build appreciation for the institutions our Founding Fathers created more than 220 years ago.

I am proud to honor our Constitution and support those organizations like Liberty Day that ensure its meaning is not lost to the passage of time.

RECOGNIZING KYLE WEINTRAUB
AS A STAR STUDENT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage and determination of Kyle Weintraub. Kyle, a Davie resident, is currently being treated at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma (ALCL). Faced with the possibility of spending up to a year in the hospital receiving treatment, he decided that he would not let this obstacle prevent him from attending school.

By continuing to learn and attend school Kyle has demonstrated admirable resolve in fighting this life-threatening disease. He is a shining example for all students of what dedication and commitment to education looks like.

I would also like to commend his determination in the face of continuous treatments and the support of his family and friends in facilitating that effort. This is especially true in the case of Marni Rosenblatt, who was able to raise \$4,000 to help Kyle's parents with the costs for the special technology necessary, to allow him to continue his education.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in sending best wishes and prayers to this tenacious young man, Kyle Weintraub. He exemplifies the strength and courage we all hope to find within ourselves when faced with such a hardship.

HONORING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE CONSERVATION
CORPS OF MINNESOTA AND IOWA

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 80th Anniversary of the Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa. The

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Conservation Corps has a rich history of providing first-hand experiences with environmental stewardship to youth all over the State of Minnesota. The Conservation Corps has a distinct goal of assisting young adults from diverse backgrounds and engaging them in various leadership opportunities while building skills and learning about environmental initiatives. Through this critical involvement in the community, young people are able to gain insight as well as employment skills. This organization thrives through the many programs offered, whether it's the Home Energy Squad installing a programmable thermostat in a home or AmeriCorps Youth Leaders engaging teens in outdoor service-learning summer camps. The reach of the Conservation Corps is far and wide.

The Conservation Corps began in the 1930s and were called the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) which provided much needed employment to young men during the Great Depression. The CCC allowed these workers to provide for their families through the dismal economic times with natural resource jobs. By the 1970s the Youth Conservation Corps was launched by the federal government along with the year-round Young Adult Conservation Corps. When federal support for the Conservation Corps ended in 1981, the Minnesota Legislature stepped in and created the Minnesota Conservation Corps and continued to provide these invaluable opportunities through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

In 1999 the Friends of the Minnesota Conservation Corps, made up of community supporters and program alumni, was incorporated as a nonprofit organization. In 2003, they joined with the Conservation Corps and began to operate under the Minnesota Conservation Corps. In 2010, the organization changed its name to Conservation Corps Minnesota to maintain consistency with the branch created in Iowa. The organization, now headquartered in Ames, Iowa, continues to provide service-learning opportunities at their site though the reach of the organization extends far beyond our neighbors to the south. The effects of the Conservation Corps can be seen throughout the Midwest in Wisconsin, Upper Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. No matter the location, the legacy of restoring our natural resources and changing lives remains the same. Minnesota, known for its 10,000 lakes and abundant natural resources, is indebted to the many hours, years, and volunteers that Conservation Corps has dedicated to preserving our environment.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of the community, history, and legacy of the Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa, celebrating their 80th Anniversary, I am pleased to submit this statement.

HONORING THE KING SOLOMON
BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a pillar of the community, the King Solomon Baptist Church. King Solomon has served as a catalyst for the civil rights movement of Warren County.

The Church was built by former slaves in 1860, it boasted nearly a thousand members in the 1940's. Its Pastors have been leaders in the State Baptist Convention as well as the National Baptist Convention.

King Solomon is an inner-city ministry located in the heart of downtown Vicksburg. The pervasive influence of the church has shaped the social fabric of central and southwest Mississippi and impacted the lives of thousands of its residents. The church serves the Vicksburg/Warren County community through its nursing home, prison, outreach, multi-media and food ministries. Church services are broadcast across Central Mississippi, Western Louisiana, Southwestern Arkansas and throughout the Mississippi Delta.

King Solomon Baptist Church dedicates the fourth weekend in April of each year to Family Empowerment Weekend (FEW). FEW is designed to bring awareness of the Biblical Family as the central building block of the community, state and nation.

King Solomon is in the final stages of completing a second location at 180 Oak Ridge Road where the Word will continue to be taught and preached.

The members and the pastor acknowledge that they exist for the glory of God and to exalt Christ in a fallen world. The ministry is centered on Salvation, Reaching the unadulterated Word of God, Love, Unity and Living an Obedient Life that exemplifies Jesus Christ. The Church motto is, "Christ First, Christ Only, Christ Always".

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the King Solomon Baptist Church for its rich heritage in Southwest Mississippi, dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

HONORING TAYLOR LUKE
PARRISH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Taylor Luke Parrish. Taylor is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 138, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Taylor has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Taylor has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Taylor has earned the rank of Ordeal in the Order of the Arrow and become a Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Taylor has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Taylor improved the landscaping and installed a gravel walkway and patio at Mission Woods Community of Christ Church in Blue Springs, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Taylor Luke Parrish for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATING THE CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO
SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, public education in the Northern Mariana Islands was transformed twenty-five years ago with the enactment of Public Law 6-10, the Education Act of 1988, creating an autonomous Public School System, overseen by an elected Board of Education, and administered by a Commissioner of Education. Establishment of a Public School System, outside of the executive branch of the Commonwealth government, coincided with a new period of political maturation, economic expansion, and population growth in the Northern Marianas; and the intervening years have proven the wisdom and value of this decision.

Twenty-five years ago, the Public School System comprised just over 6,000 students throughout 14 schools. Since then, PSS has grown dramatically. Student population is now 10,646, 75 percent greater. There are now 19 schools. Kagman High School, Chacha Ocean View Middle School, Kagman Elementary School, Saipan Southern High School, and Sinapalo Elementary School have all been constructed to better serve our students. And there are now 900 PSS personnel across the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

As PSS has grown in size, so have the achievements of our students. These future leaders of our community regularly participate in national scholastic competitions, winning awards for their acting talent, debate skills, spelling abilities, and science acuity. Their successes are testament not only to students' efforts, but also to the school system that supported them and helped shape their minds.

Just this year, the Marianas High School Aeronautical Dolphins won the national Real World Design Challenge here in Washington, DC. Each student on that team was awarded a \$50,000 college scholarship.

For each of the past three years, PSS students have been recipients of Gates Millennium Scholarships, which pays for up to eight years of postsecondary education. This year alone three students from our small island community were awarded these scholarships. That is an amazing accomplishment—and a tribute to the efficacy of our public schools.

The Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Band and Marianas High School Choir have both received national recognition for their musical talents. Last summer, the Manta Rays were chosen to perform in the 2012 Summer Olympics in London. They participated in the London Celebration Music Festival, as well, and brought home a silver medal.

These achievements—academic and extra-curricular—were made possible through the extraordinary and cumulative efforts of a group of individuals whose dedication knows no peer: the leaders, teachers, and staff of the Public School System. From science teacher to physical education instructor, maintenance employee to bus driver, each of these individuals makes their contribution to the educational success of our youth.

They are led by a Commissioner of Education, appointed by the Board of Education. Six men and women have served as Commissioner, each of whom has left an indelible imprint on PSS and the lives of its students.

The first Commissioner, Mr. Henry Sablan, led the organization through a period of transition from a Department of Education organized under the Office of the Governor to an autonomous public education system answerable to an elected Board. Dr. Elizabeth Diaz Rechebeli then shepherded the school system for two years, followed by Mr. William S. Torres, who served for six years and initiated a move towards regional accreditation.

Dr. Rita Hocog Inos, in whose memory the junior and senior high school on the island of Rota is named, served as Commissioner of Education for eight years and implemented the SAT10 testing program and standards-based assessment for students, as well as the PRAXIS highly qualified teacher initiative for instructional staff. Dr. David Borja then led the system for two years, followed by our current Commissioner, Dr. Rita A. Sablan.

Dr. Sablan has, since assuming her role in 2008, focused tremendous attention on student academic achievement and guided the organization through a period of declining financial resources and increasing performance standards.

Thanks to the cumulative efforts of these six leaders, and their thousands of colleagues over the years, our students are performing better than ever on SAT10 tests, standards-based assessments, and on STAR reading and STAR math assessments. That performance is reflected in the 60 percent of graduating high school seniors who go on to college. Another 30 percent choose to serve our country in the armed forces. And 10 percent join the workforce.

Please join me in saluting those elected officials who, twenty-five years ago, recognized the value of an autonomous education system in the Northern Mariana Islands and enacted the Education Act. Also, join me in celebrating the many who built upon that foundation. The prescience of those leaders, and the hard work and dedication of the members of the Board of Education, the Commissioners, and the thousands of instructors and staff has brought us to the present-day successes of our Public School System.

Each and every individual who contributed to this achievement deserves the esteem and gratitude of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands.

HONORING SHANICE WIMSATT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Shanice Wimsatt, a dedicated student, who is making a difference in her community.

Shanice Wimsatt, was born in Chicago, IL on October 9, 1994. For about six years she grew up in an apartment in Chicago with her mother, Vivian Mitchell, her father, James Wimsatt and two older brothers, Jermaine and Andre Mitchell.

At about the age of six, they moved to Yazoo City, MS. She quickly began to excel in

her studies. By doing so well, she was invited to be in a high performance program called DIG. But, upon entering into the fourth grade, DIG offered her a chance to skip a grade or two. This was one of the first most important decisions she faced and she was not able to accept the offer, because by then her mother had started moving to Pickens, MS where she currently lives.

Life in Holmes county has taught her many things. Her strengths and decisions have been tested and challenged. She quickly learned that she was in poverty and did not like it at all. She set out to change or at least help change her community.

She first started an all girls group, during a critical pregnancy period and called it I.Y.G. (Independent Young Girls). Her goal was to empower the young ladies at her school by showing them that they have supporters. Next, she and a friend teamed up and created Teens on a Mission. This was created to provide more jobs for the teens in the area and to show the world that teenagers can make a difference, being that, some were voted least likely to succeed.

She is now making a great difference in her community and for herself.

REMEMBERING THE 9/11 ATTACKS

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, it has been twelve years since that terrible day when nearly 3000 of our fellow citizens perished in an unprovoked series of attacks on our nation. And while the key perpetrators of that horror are now themselves either dead or in our custody, the pain and the heroism of Americans on that day are something we must never forget.

I remember Todd Beamer of Cranbury, New Jersey, who, along with the other passengers on Flight 93, made the ultimate sacrifice to save more people in Washington, DC from almost certain death. I also remember "the Jersey Girls"—Kristen Breitweiser, Patty Casazza, Lone Van Auken, and Mindy Kleinberg—who, along with other family members, battled President Bush to force the creation of the 9/11 Commission. These men and women of 9/11—those who perished and those who preserve their memory—remind us of the strength and resilience of the American spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the spirit of unity and common purpose that we experienced in the wake of the 9/11 tragedy can be rekindled in our nation and used to confront the many serious problems facing America. May we each play our part in reviving that spirit, even as we honor the memory of those who showed on that fateful September morning twelve years ago.

HONORING THOMAS ALAN REILLY, JUNIOR

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Thomas Alan Reilly, Jr. Thomas is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 251, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Thomas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Thomas has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Thomas has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Thomas Alan Reilly, Jr., for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

MABEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
"PEACE DAY"

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the students at Mabel Elementary School in Watauga County are observing "International Peace Day" this Friday.

I commend them for taking the time to pay such special attention to a cause as important as peace.

Each student at Mabel Elementary School has a part to play in building peace.

As I told the student, peace starts with respect—respect for yourself, your family, your classmates, your teachers, and for our American values of life, liberty, personal responsibility, and equality.

Pursuing peace goes hand-in-hand with practicing respect. And practicing respect is a choice each of us will make for the rest of our lives.

President Ronald Reagan, in a speech to students at Moscow State University, said "A people free to choose will always choose peace."

In this country, we not only have the freedom to make that choice, we also have wonderful examples to follow as we learn to practice respect and build peace.

No one values peace more than the men and women who serve in our armed forces. These brave people and their families sacrifice to defend freedom and pursue peace in our world. When bad things happen and when we find ourselves in danger, they answer the call to protect us and they always work to find peace.

It takes courage and conviction to choose to treat others with respect and pursue peace. But peace is a noble calling and a just goal.

By practicing peace and respect at home and in school, Mabel Elementary students can

help build a more peaceful North Carolina, a more peaceful America, and even a more peaceful world.

Again, I commend them on their Peace Day celebration.

HONORING PROFESSOR RICHARD
M. MURRAY

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration and respect that I rise today to speak of the contributions Professor Murray has made in the field of engineering. This month, a faculty member of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California was inducted into the National Academy of Engineering's Class of 2013. Professor Richard M. Murray, the Thomas E. and Doris Everhart Professor of Control and Dynamical Systems and Bio-engineering, was inducted for his contributions in control theory and networked control systems with applications to aerospace engineering, robotics, and autonomy.

Election to membership at the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) is one of the highest professional honors accorded an engineer. While members are elected into the NAE by their peers and colleagues, only a handful of engineers are inducted each year. Richard's accomplishments and research have allowed him to distinguish himself among his peers.

As the Chair of the Engineering and Applied Sciences Division from 2000–2005, Director of the Information Science and Technology Council from 2006–2009, and Interim Chair of the Engineering and Applied Sciences Division from 2008–2009, Richard has distinguished himself not only as a university faculty, but also as an effective academic administrator.

I am proud to represent such a distinguished scholar and engineer and could not be more proud of the achievements he has made at the California Institute of Technology. I sincerely thank Professor Murray for his dedication to scientific innovation and research as well as teaching and mentoring future engineers. I urge my colleagues to join me in commending Professor Murray for his service, contribution, and ongoing commitment to scientific progress.

HONORING THE MOUNT ZION
BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a pillar of the community, the Mount Zion Baptist Church.

The Mount Zion Baptist Church was founded in 1899 in Cary, MS. The Church has had several great leaders: Rev. Threadgill, Rev. James Merrill and Rev. Jack Wilson to name a few.

In the 60's the church elected Rev. C.B. Smith. Rev. Smith was a visionary leader and believed in pushing the church forward. In 1992 Rev Smith led the Church into a new ed-

ifice. Rev. Smith nurtured the church through Christian education. Rev Smith was the longest serving Pastor.

After Rev. C.B. Smith's tenure the congregation elected Rev. Henry Wilson who served the church faithfully until his health began to fail. Under his leadership the church continued to labor in the ministry.

In 2009 the church elected Dr. Peter Jackson and he served for nearly three years before he resigned.

After much prayer the church elected Rev. Travis J. Gully to serve as the Pastor. He began to preach and teach the word of God and things began to change. The church has recently decided to build the C.B. Smith Family Life Center. The church has begun to press forward in the new season. Rev. Gully's goal is to have the church to do ministry in a dynamic way.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Mount Zion Baptist Church as they celebrate 114 years of standing firmly on the word of God.

CONGRATULATING BEN'S CHILI
BOWL ON ITS 55TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Ben's Chili Bowl on its 55th anniversary of service to the residents of the District of Columbia and its thousands of visitors, who have carried its reputation far and wide.

Ben's was founded in 1958 by newlyweds Ben and Virginia Ali, who converted an old pool hall on U Street into today's Ben's Chili Bowl, a virtual DC institution. The Ali's made Ben's into a prominent family business that their sons Kamal and Nizam later joined. Ben's has expanded from its signature U Street location to Ben's Next Door, Nationals Park, and FedEx Field, and will soon open locations on H Street NE and in Arlington, Virginia. From the beginning, Ben's Chili Bowl was frequented by the neighborhood, then the city, and soon celebrities, entertainers, actors, and political figures as they visited DC's historic U Street, also known as "Black Broadway." After the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the riots that soon followed, Ben's Chili Bowl was given special police permission to remain open to provide food and shelter for all who were trying to restore peace in the city.

The popular restaurant saw a surge in customers during the 1970s but also big-city problems. In 1987, the expansion of DC's Metro rail to the U Street corridor made U Street a construction site, drastically reducing customer traffic and threatening Ben's survival. But Ben's survived while many U Street businesses died. Five years later, when the Green Line was completed, Ben's Chili Bowl returned to full business. Its core strength, which ensured the loyalty of its customers, had taken Ben's through civil disturbances that destroyed the old U Street and construction that took much of what was left.

Today, Ben's Chili Bowl flourishes as a DC destination that tourists visit the way they tour

the official historic sites. Its regulars include celebrities like Bill Cosby and Dick Gregory, politicians like President Obama, and visitors from throughout the world. Ben's famous half-smokes continue to tantalize the tastes of regulars and newcomers alike.

Ben's Chili Bowl has given the District of Columbia its own fun cuisine beginning with its half-smokes. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 55th anniversary of Ben's Chili Bowl and in wishing the Ali family continued success.

HONORING JOHN BRADLEY THARP

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize John Bradley Tharp. John is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 249, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

John has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years John has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, John has earned the rank of Foxman in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and led his troop as Senior Patrol Leader. John has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. John installed erosion breaks and provided needed trail maintenance on a three-mile walking trail in Weston Bend State Park in Weston, Missouri. This trail is used by 25,000 people annually and is a major attraction in Platte County.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending John Bradley Tharp for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

SENSELESS VIOLENCE AT THE
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deepest condolences to those whose lives changed forever as a result of the senseless violence at the Washington Navy Yard.

As a military chaplain who served in a combat zone, I have counseled many soldiers and families in times of loss.

While we are aware of the danger of casualties during overseas deployments, we certainly do not expect to lose members of our military on our own soil.

I want the friends and family of the active duty and civilian Navy employees who lost their lives in service to their country on Monday to know their sacrifice will be remembered.

I also want these individuals to know that I join with all Americans in my commitment to see justice done.

Along with all members of our Armed Forces, I offer my unwavering support to the Navy family in this time of grief.

We mourn all the victims of this tragedy, including the law enforcement officers who lost their lives, and send our best wishes to survivors as they recover.

My prayers and thoughts will continue to be with the victims and families of the Navy Yard shooting.

HONORING DR. MELVIN B. GIRTON,
SR. ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Melvin B. Gorton, Sr., who, after 50 years of dedicated service, has retired as the senior pastor of Christ Missionary Baptist Church in Indianapolis.

Throughout his career, Dr. Gorton has been a champion for civil rights and an outspoken advocate for social justice. As spiritual leader of the 94-year-old congregation, he has organized and hosted hundreds of events to bring the people of central Indiana together in celebration, remembrance, and hope. He remains dedicated to these goals even in retirement and will continue to serve as host pastor for the annual Indianapolis Emancipation Proclamation service, an event that is attended by dignitaries and officials from around the country. Dr. Gorton's advocacy has not been limited to the pulpit, though. He has worked tirelessly for equality and opportunity as Vice President of the Indianapolis Branch of the NAACP and has been an ever present force in efforts to strengthen our community.

Recognizing a need for job training and the redevelopment of local neighborhoods, Dr. Gorton founded the Christ Missionary Baptist Economical Training & Development Center in 1998. The Center began as a small laundry mat in an underused strip mall near the church, but over time has grown to provide a powerful social outlet for seniors, job training for local youth, and reintegration services for juvenile and adult offenders.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Gorton for his years of dedicated service to his parishioners, the Indianapolis community, and all Hoosiers.

HONORING THE KING SOLOMON
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a pillar of the community, the King Solomon M.B. Church. King Solomon served as a permanent staple in Yazoo City, Mississippi.

King Solomon M.B. Church was established when nine members of Holy Green Missionary Church decided to revolutionize and become

an independent embodiment of Christians. In October of 1903 the church was organized under the leadership of Rev. Kyzer, Rev. G.P. Green and Rev. A.C. Carter in the home of Sister Mollie Carey. Then Sister Mahalia Turner named the church King Solomon Missionary Baptist Church.

The first service was held under a brush arbor due to lack of proper facilities under the direction of Rev. A.C. Carter. As the fall season grew colder services were held at the home of Sister Vickie Love. Under the leadership of Rev. A.C. Carter, membership continued to grow therefore needing a larger and more appropriate facility. Members appointed a group to form the building committee, who arranged to build a frame structure in the Lintonia subdivision which is today's current location, 1409 Calhoun Avenue. On May 12, 190*, the church was built after long period of hard work and dedication.

In 1948, Rev. Hammond was elected as pastor. During this time the church divided and the New King Solomon was organized. The church suffered greatly during this upheaval. It was not until Rev. R.S. Scott was elected as pastor at King Solomon in 1948 that the church began to rejuvenate, unify and prosper once more. Rev. Scott served the church with compassion and strong conviction.

In 1960, Rev. G.H. Hankins was elected and under his leadership the church was remodeled. He later resigned in October of 1987 after twenty-seven years of faithful service.

Rev. Benjamin Hall Jr. was elected in 1989 and continues to serve in this capacity today. In 1997, grounds were broken to begin the building of the facility that they now occupy. The reconstructed annex was completed, dedicated and renamed the "Waymon C. Crump Education Complex".

Members of King Solomon pride themselves with the energy they put into the youth of the church. Their motto is "We are Family," and they promote it not only in the church family but the community through their many ministries.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the King Solomon Missionary Baptist Church as they strive to be the "beacon on the hill" that guides others to the joy of serving God through His Son, Jesus Christ.

HONORING THE HONORABLE ELIHU
M. HARRIS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of the Honorable Elihu Harris as we celebrate over 30 years of his dedicated public service and accomplishments. Mr. Harris continues to be a celebrated individual, and we join together in praise of his remarkable contributions to the Bay Area, California, and our great nation.

Born Elihu Mason Harris in Los Angeles, California on August 15, 1947, Mr. Harris grew up in Berkeley, California and graduated from Berkeley High School in 1965. He received his B.A. degree in Political Science at California

State University, Hayward (East Bay), and went on to earn an M.A. from the Graduate School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley. Mr. Harris received his J.D. from the University of California, Davis in 1972.

Mr. Harris' esteemed career has spanned over four decades as an attorney at law, politician, and community college administrator. He became a senior partner for the firm of Harris, Alexander and Burris in 1978 for twelve years. He was an instructor teaching at various higher education institutions in the Bay Area, and later served on staff for Congresswoman Yvonne Burke and Assemblymember John Miller. In 1975, he was appointed as the Executive Director of the National Bar Association before forging his legacy in California politics. In 1978, Mr. Harris was elected to the California State Assembly to represent the 13th District. During his thirteen year tenure, he chaired the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, served as Chair of the Select Committees, and was a member of the Judiciary Committee as well as the Transportation, Health, Labor and Ways and Means, subcommittees on Education and Finance. In 1981, Mr. Harris authored the historic legislation that designated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday a California state holiday. The Oakland Elihu M. Harris State Office Building was dedicated in his honor in 1998.

From 1991 to 1999, Mr. Harris served as Mayor of Oakland. In that role, Mr. Harris helped to restore and strengthen Oakland following the devastating aftermath of both the Loma Prieta earthquake and Oakland Hills Firestorm. He developed Oakland Sharing the Vision, a community strategic plan involving Oaklanders setting goals and objectives for the City. He also established community policing for Oakland neighborhoods, and created new city programs and initiatives to improve the community such as Oakland Healthy Cities and Camp Read-A-Lot, one of the many education endeavors he supported in office.

In 2000, Mr. Harris was appointed by Governor Gray Davis to serve as a board member on the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board. From there, Mr. Harris was appointed in 2003 as interim Chancellor of the Peralta Community College District before receiving the post on a permanent basis in 2004. During his term as Chancellor, Mr. Harris was a strong supporter for students and championed equal access to education for all. He served in this capacity until 2010.

Throughout his prolific career, Mr. Harris has been an ardent advocate for social justice and civil rights. The Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center and Merritt College has recognized Mr. Harris' contributions and aptly named its lecture series program as "The Barbara Lee and Elihu Harris Lecture Series."

On a personal note, Elihu has been my brother and my friend since the early 70's. He has been my trusted confidant and provides honest feedback and constantly "watches my back". For this and so much more, I am deeply grateful.

Therefore, on behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, the Honorable Elihu Harris, I salute you. Your over 30 years of public service have made an indelible mark in our community. Best wishes to you and your loved ones in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM ST.
GEMME, ALL AMERICAN COM-
MANDER

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize William St. Gemme, Commander of Springfield, Missouri's Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 3404, to whom the VFW has given All American status as a Post Commander.

William was drafted into the United States Army in November of 1967. He served in a number of locations, including Vietnam, as a number in the Medical Service Corps and was honorably discharged in October of 1971. William joined the VFW Post 3404 in 2005 and was named Commander in October of 2011.

The title of All American Commander is the most prestigious honor given by the VFW. Out of more than 7,200 VFW Posts, only 204 VFW Post Commanders have been selected worldwide as an All American Commander. This honor is based on outstanding achievements in membership growth and participation in other VFW programs that benefit veterans and their communities.

Post 3404 and the Ladies Auxiliary of Springfield, Missouri also received the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Outstanding Community Service Post Award. There were only 68 recipients of this award. These Posts are remarkable examples of nearly 12 million hours of community service throughout the U.S. valued at over \$263 million performed by VFW volunteers last year.

I am honored to recognize William's achievements as Post Commander of VFW Post 3404.

DANIEL DEMELFI, UNICO
HAZLETON CHAPTER

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Daniel DeMelfi, the outgoing president of the UNICO Hazleton, Pennsylvania Chapter.

Mr. DeMelfi has served as the president of the UNICO Hazleton Chapter since 2010 and has held positions as a core committee member and entertainment co-chair for UNICO's Bell'Italia Festival. UNICO is the largest Italian American organization in the United States. Members seek to improve their communities by providing assistance to area and national charities through fundraisers and donations. Additionally, they strive to honor and educate others about their Italian culture and ethnic heritage.

Mr. DeMelfi's commitment to the community does not end with his service to UNICO. He serves as the founder and former president of the Hazleton Area Landlords' Organization, a core committee member for the Sounds of the Season Concert, and lector and piano accompanist for the Most Precious Blood Roman Catholic Church. Additionally, he is a board member for both the Hazleton Silent Santa organization and the Wiltsie Performing Arts Center.

Mr. Speaker, for his dedicated service to both his Italian heritage and our community, I commend Daniel DeMelfi, outgoing president of the UNICO Hazleton, Pennsylvania Chapter.

IN MEMORIAM OF STAFF SER-
GEANT ROBERT E. THOMAS, JR.

HON. GLORIA NEGRETE MCLEOD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD. Mr. Speaker, the nation mourns the passing of Staff Sergeant Robert E. Thomas, Jr., age 24, who died last Friday at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, for injuries sustained while serving in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

A native of Fontana, California, Sergeant Thomas was stationed with the 1st battalion of the 36th Infantry Regiment, 1st armored division in Fort Bliss, Texas. He is survived by his wife, Kristina and daughter, Hailey, as well as his father and mother.

I send my condolences to the family, friends, and all those who knew and loved Staff Sergeant Thomas. We honor his love of country and his dedicated service to our nation.

CONSTITUTION WEEK

HON. JOHN FLEMING

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my thanks to the Louisiana Society Daughters of the American Revolution for their efforts to promote Constitution Week, September 17–23. The women of the Louisiana Society Daughters of the American Revolution have dedicated themselves to promoting a better understanding of the Constitution since 1895, and I commend them for their continued contributions.

The Constitution of the United States of America sets us apart from every government that had come before. We are a nation of laws, not men. Our Constitution has survived the test of time in embodying and protecting that fundamental principle. Further, the Constitution guarantees our freedom of speech, religion, our right to bear arms and protects us from the government itself. Our Founding Fathers well understood the need to limit the power of any one branch of government through checks and balances.

We owe the Daughters of the American Revolution a debt of gratitude for their efforts to promote the study of and reflection upon this critical document, as only an informed public can protect its own rights.

When I was sworn in as a Member of Congress, I took an oath to support and defend the Constitution. The principles found in our Constitution have propelled our country to be a "shining city on a hill." I believe our nation's greatness can be renewed by returning to our founding ideals.

INDIA'S MISSING GIRLS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, a hearing that my subcommittee held last week examined the problem of "India's Missing Girls." While for most of us today our attention was drawn to the unfolding crisis in Syria—I was on C-SPAN's Washington Journal Program call-in program and introduced a resolution calling for establishing a Syrian War Crimes Tribunal—other atrocities continue unabated around the world. We cannot ignore these atrocities, among the most egregious of which is violation of the human rights of the girl child and women in India.

Women in India are confronted with a compounding crisis. By most estimates, there are tens of millions of women missing in India due to the devaluing of female life beginning in the womb.

Sex-selective abortion and female infanticide have led to lopsided sex ratios. In parts of India, for example, 126 boys are born for every 100 girls. This in turn leads to a shortage of marriageable women, which then leads to trafficking in persons, bride selling and prostitution.

Perhaps the best figures we have concerning the magnitude of the problem come from India's 2011 census figures, which find that there are approximately 37 million more men than women in India.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has addressed this issue head on, stating "the falling child sex ratio is an indictment of our social values. Improving this ratio is not merely a question of stricter compliance with the existing laws. What is more important is how we view and value the girl child in our society . . . It is a national shame for us that despite this, female feticide and infanticide continue in many parts of our country."

Even when they are not killed outright either in the womb or just after birth, this bias against girl children manifests itself in situations where family resources are limited and little food is available, in boys being fed before girls, leading to greater incidents of malnutrition among girls and a mortality rate that is 75% higher for girls below age 5 than for boys.

The desire for a male child can be so great that there is a trend towards sex change operations for girls between ages 1 to 5, a process known as "genitoplasty." Each year, hundreds of girls reportedly are pumped with hormones and surgically altered to turn them into facsimile boys. India's National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has correctly stated that this "highly unethical" procedure is a violation of children's rights as well as a "perpetuation of the age old preferences for boys and biases against the girl child."

But the roots of the present problem lie not only with cultural factors, but also misbegotten policy decisions—including population control policies that were hatched in the United States—which have had a disproportionately negative impact on India's women.

We learned from our witnesses that this includes policies advanced by the United States Agency for International Development, or USAID, and funded by foundations such as

the Ford Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, and abetted by non-governmental organizations such as the Population Council and the International Planned Parenthood Federation.

During the debate in the U.S. House of Representatives on a bill to ban sex selective abortion, I noted that for most of us, "it's a girl" is cause for enormous joy, happiness and celebration. But in many countries—including our own—it can be a death sentence. Today, the three most dangerous words in China and India are: it's a girl. We can't let that happen here.

Our witness today, Dr. Matthew Connelly, in his book *Fatal Misconception: The Struggle to Control World Population* traces the sordid history of sex-selection abortion as a means of population control. In her book, *Unnatural Selection: Choosing Boys Over Girls, and the Consequences of a World Full of Men*, Mara Hvistendahl, elaborates "[b]y August 1969, when the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the Population Council convened another workshop on population control, sex selection had become a pet scheme . . . Sex selection, moreover, had the added advantage of reducing the number of potential mothers . . . if a reliable sex determination technology could be made available to a mass market," there was "rough consensus" that sex selection abortion "would be an effective, uncontroversial and ethical way of reducing the global population."

Fewer women, fewer mothers, fewer future children.

At the conference, one abortion zealot, Christopher Tietze co-presented sex selection abortion as one of twelve new strategies representing the future of global birth control. Planned Parenthood honored Tietze four years later with the Margaret Sanger Award.

Hvistendahl writes that today "there are over 160 million females 'missing' from Asia's population. That's more than the entire female population of the United States. And gender imbalance—which is mainly the result of sex selective abortion—is no longer strictly an Asian problem. In Azerbaijan and Armenia, in Eastern Europe, and even among some groups in the United States, couples are making sure at least one of their children is a son. So many parents now select for boys that they have skewed the sex ratio at birth of the entire world."

In the *Global War Against Baby Girls* renowned AEI demographer Nicholas Eberstadt wrote in *The New Atlantis*; "over the past three decades the world has come to witness an ominous and entirely new form of gender discrimination: sex-selective feticide, implemented through the practice of surgical abortion with the assistance of information gained through prenatal gender determination technology. All around the world, the victims of this new practice are overwhelmingly female—in fact, almost universally female. The practice has become so ruthlessly routine in many contemporary societies that it has impacted their very population structures, warping the balance between male and female births and consequently skewing the sex ratios for the rising generation toward a biologically unnatural excess of males."

Many European nations including the UK as well as several Asian countries ban sex selection abortion. Only four US states—Arizona, Illinois, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania—proscribe it.

Sex-selection abortion is cruel and discriminatory and legal. It is violence against women. Most people in and out of government remain woefully unaware of the fact that sex-selection abortion was—a violent, nefarious and deliberate policy imposed on the world by the pro-abortion population control movement—it's not an accident. The Congress can—and must—defend women from this vicious assault today.

While India has taken steps to curb these practices, passing laws to ban sex selective abortion and temper cultural facts such as the need for brides to provide a high dowry that contribute to parents looking at their daughters as a liability, these laws are irregularly enforced. Moreover, there are laws at the state level which exacerbate the problem, mandating that parents only have two children, penalizing those who exceed this number and denying benefits. This leads inevitably to sex-selective abortion and, particularly in poorer areas, female infanticide, as parents will opt to have a son over a daughter, especially when their first child is a daughter.

We hope that this hearing will better understand how we can play a role in curbing such horrific abuses.

What, for example, can we do to help ensure that companies based in the US, such as General Electric, whose ultrasound equipment is used to determine the sex of the child in utero, take steps to prevent what should be a tool to promote life of both mother and child from being used as an instrument of death?

Given the past role of US agencies such as USAID in coercive population control policies, what oversight do we need to conduct to make sure such abuses do not creep their way into existing programs?

Similarly, to what extent are organizations that receive funding from the United States government implicated in such practices?

What role can our State Department play, beyond compiling information regarding what is occurring in India with respect to what some have labeled "gendercide," to influence positively the Indian government, so that it reforms laws and policies that exacerbate skewed sex ratios, such as two-child laws?

By shining a light on what is happening in India with its missing girls, we hope to move toward a world where every woman is valued and respected because of her intrinsic dignity, and where every child is welcomed regardless of his or her sex.

HONORING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF BROWNELL-TALBOT

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brownell-Talbot School, an educational institution in my district that is celebrating a truly remarkable milestone in their rich history.

Today marks the Brownell-Talbot School Sesquicentennial. This school played a visionary role in Omaha during our city's formative years and has now enjoyed 150 years of rich history. Rt. Reverend Joseph Cruickshank Talbot, D.D. originally founded the school in 1863 as a girls' boarding school named Brownell Hall. It was established to bring cultural and educational opportunities to the daughters of the pioneers.

The school held the first commencement exercise for high school graduates in the State of Nebraska in 1868. It eventually became co-educational in 1952 under the name Brownell Hall-Talbot School for Boys. The school was ultimately renamed Brownell-Talbot School in 1963, and today is the only independent, pre-school through grade 12, college preparatory school in Nebraska.

Brownell-Talbot School continues to graduate some of the city's best and brightest students. The school has very high academic standards and has earned the highest published average composite ACT score in Nebraska.

This 150th Anniversary honors all of Brownell-Talbot School's founders, board members, supporters, past and present students and their teachers, administrators, and staff. All of these members of the Brownell-Talbot School community have had a hand in the exemplary education of Brownell-Talbot students, a tradition that will undoubtedly continue long into the future.

HONORING TERRIONA COWAN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable student, Ms. Terriona Cowan, who was born in Jackson, Mississippi, on July 11, 1993. She is the daughter of Mr. Reginald and Tianna Bennett. She is a student at Jackson State University, majoring in Chemistry Pre-Medicine. As an ambitious chemistry student, majority of her time is spent in class or doing biochemical research. She enjoys being a research scholar in her field of study and has many long term goals to enhance it.

Aside from using her intellectual gift, she is also committed to the community where she believes service is the way to build the world. She is a dedicated volunteer at Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital. Tending to kids with sickness is her motivation throughout the day. On her free time, she often goes to the reservoir and meditates on the blessings that God has yet to cease in her life.

After accepting Christ at a young age at Pleasant Grove M. B. Church in Bentonia, Mississippi she understands the importance of giving God credit for the things that he has done. In the future, she looks forward to being a positive role model to others that want to make the world a more peaceful and positive place.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Terriona Cowan.

RECOGNIZING THE MEMBERS OF AMERICORPS

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the members of AmeriCorps and their service to this country. On Saturday, September 21, 2013, AmeriCorps will celebrate their 20th anniversary. For 20 years,

their first priority has been the communities of America. Their members have served in thousands of ways across the nation. In my own home state, members of the AmeriCorps Conservation Corps were critical in assisting the management of the Colockum Tarps Fire this past year—a fire which burned across over 20,000 acres. This is only one small example of their commitment to helping others in any way possible.

Members like these set an example to all Americans. Their actions continually encourage people of all ages and from all walks of life to engage in community service projects and help others. I am encouraged by their dedication and witness daily the benefits of community engagement and service that they work so hard to promote. Once more, I thank and congratulate them on achieving this milestone.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.

Today, it is \$16,738,502,722,145. We've added \$6,111,625,673,232 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING 50 WWII VETERANS VISITING THROUGH HONOR FLIGHT OF EASTERN OREGON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 50 World War II veterans from Oregon who will be visiting their memorial this Friday in Washington, DC through Honor Flight of Eastern Oregon. On behalf of a grateful state and country, we welcome these heroes to the nation's capital.

The veterans on this flight from Oregon are as follows: James Bray, U.S. Army; Howard Brink, U.S. Army; Donner Fearing, U.S. Army; Murray Hale, U.S. Army; Dan Jackson, U.S. Army; Franklin Jenkins, U.S. Army; Robert Michael, U.S. Army; Warren Norton, U.S. Army; Frank Passmore, U.S. Army; Wilbur Rasmussen, U.S. Army; Deryl Richter, U.S. Army; Joseph Sequito, U.S. Army; Charles Wilkins, U.S. Army; Thomas Wright, U.S. Army; Howard Bunker, U.S. Army Air Force; Phillip Chaperon, U.S. Army Air Force; Walter Davis, U.S. Army Air Force; Everett Endicott, U.S. Army Air Force; Hiram Hern, U.S. Army Air Force; Thomas Herrod, U.S. Army Air Force; William Keating, U.S. Army Air Force; Carl King, U.S. Army Air Force; James Minturn, U.S. Army Air Force; Richard Strom, U.S. Army Air Force; Robert Bullock, U.S. Coast Guard; Fred Coulter, U.S. Coast Guard; Mel Baldivia, U.S. Marine Corps; Robert Tinsley, U.S. Marine

Corps; Calvin Weissenfluh, U.S. Marine Corps; Richard Drexelius, U.S. Merchant Marine; William Anderson, U.S. Navy; John Brainerd, U.S. Navy; Jack Burtch, U.S. Navy; John Clarke, U.S. Navy; John Emerson, U.S. Navy; Albert Emmons, U.S. Navy; Alta Halliday, U.S. Navy; Orlin Hansen, U.S. Navy; Darell Hillard, U.S. Navy; Frederick LaMear, U.S. Navy; Robert Ledford, U.S. Navy; Harry Maxwell, U.S. Navy; Donald Morris, U.S. Navy; Harold Schumock, U.S. Navy; Russell Sichley, U.S. Navy; Ellis Skidmore, U.S. Navy; Gordon Smith, U.S. Navy; Donald Tippet, U.S. Navy; Arthur Vinall, U.S. Navy; and Jeffrey Walker, U.S. Navy.

These 50 heroes join more than 98,000 veterans from across the country who, since 2005, have journeyed from their home states to Washington, DC to reflect at the memorials built in honor of our nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, each of us is humbled by the courage of these soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Eastern Oregon for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country. I especially want to recognize and thank Dick and Erik Tobiason for their tireless work with Honor Flight of Eastern Oregon.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ERNIE BANKS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize baseball legend Ernie Banks for being selected to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Among other recipients of the nation's highest civilian honor will be former President Bill Clinton; the late Sally Ride, the first American female astronaut; country singer Loretta Lynn; North Carolina basketball coach Dean Smith and Oprah Winfrey.

Ernie Banks made his debut to the Major League on September 13, 1953, 60 years ago. I am proud to say Ernie Banks is a native of my Congressional District in Dallas, Texas. Ernie Banks, who went on to have a Hall of Fame career with the Cubs, grew up at 1723 Fairmount Street, Dallas, Texas. His parents, Eddie and Essie Banks raised Ernie and 11 other children there.

He attended Booker T. Washington High School, also in Dallas, which didn't have a baseball team at the time. Despite that, he excelled playing on the school's softball team. He was a wide receiver on the football team and also ran track. He played basketball down the street at the Moorland YMCA. He worshipped at St. Paul United Methodist church. As Banks states, "Our North Dallas—was a great place to grow up." After two years in the Army and a brief return to the Monarchs,

Ernie Banks, at 22, was selected to play for a Major League team, the Cubs, becoming only the ninth black player to take the major

league field. To date, Banks holds Cubs records for games played (2,528), at-bats (9,421), extra-base hits (1,009), and total bases (4,706). As one of the Nation's pioneers in baseball, Ernie Banks has inspired and enlightened so many throughout his life.

Our country has benefitted immensely from his career, and I hope he will continue to inspire others. I wish to commend Ernie Banks and thank him for his service to this great nation. As a pioneer in baseball, he has created positive pathways many future generations.

TO TRINITY ELMS RESIDENTS ON THE OCCASION OF GRANDPARENTS DAY

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the residents of Trinity Elms on the occasion of Grandparents Day.

It is an honor to extend to Trinity Elms residents another expression of much deserved thanks and appreciation for the critical role they, as grandparents, play in the lives of their families and our larger Clemmons community.

Grandparents fortify and exemplify the values we seek to teach our children. They encourage children to dream, teach them the importance of duty, and push them always to do their best. Trinity Elms residents are to be thanked for providing this direction.

As an anchor of love and stability in many families, grandparents often help their children bear the responsibilities of parenting. They possess invaluable knowledge and wisdom, and are a reservoir of life experiences which transcends generational differences and stand the test of time.

Though gratitude for the part grandparents play is oft under-sung, we will not make that mistake today. For the many hats Trinity Elms residents wear as grandparents, those of teacher, comforter, cheerleader, coach, disciplinarian, and even adjunct parent, I salute them. A grandparent's love is something that can never be replaced in a child's life.

May we continue to treasure the blessing of grandparenting as an affirmation of the generosity of Almighty God. That we, as individuals, have the opportunity to love and encourage our children and grandchildren as they grow and navigate the challenges of this life is astounding. And through the process, grandparents too are changed for the better.

In fond remembrance of my own grandparents, and as the proud grandmother of two, I commend Trinity Elms residents for their service and offer them my sincerest thanks.

HONORING SABRINA CALDWELL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable student, Ms. Sabrina D. Caldwell, a Kosciusko High School Senior who is the Oprah Winfrey Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year and has assumed the role of 2013 Youth of the Year for

the state of Mississippi by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Mississippi. She was named state runner-up earlier this year and assumed the role after the current winner was unable to fulfill his duties as Mississippi's Youth of the Year.

In addition to winning the title, Ms. Caldwell will also receive scholarship money from the Mississippi Area Council as well as the Tupperware Corporation. She was selected among 18 organizations across Mississippi for her sound character, leadership skills and willingness to give back to the community.

Being named the 2013 State Youth of the Year is one of the highest honor a Boys and Girls Club member can receive. The title recognizes outstanding contributions to a member's family, school, community and her Boys and Girls Club, as well as personal challenges and obstacles that are overcome. She is the daughter of Roschella and Billy Caldwell.

Ms. Caldwell has maintained a 3.0 grade point average at Kosciusko High School. Her awards include: Advanced On Biology I, Algebra I and English II. She is the secretary for the Mayor's Youth Council, a hospice volunteer for Sta-Home, a member of the Keystone and the Leadership Club at the Oprah Winfrey Boys and Girls Club and a member of the Kosciusko High School Beta Club.

She is also currently enlisted in United States National Guard. Ms. Caldwell plans to attend Meridian Community College to major in physical therapy and later go on to a major university to further her education.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Sabrina D. Caldwell.

THE TROUBLING PATH AHEAD FOR U.S.-ZIMBABWE RELATIONS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, despite more than a decade of targeted sanctions, Zimbabwe has continued to be a major U.S. trading partner through the Generalized System of Preferences, even though it has been excluded from the African Growth and Opportunity Act. Chromium, platinum and diamonds have enriched Zimbabwe's leaders, but not its people.

Zimbabwe had been one of Africa's leading industrial powers and agricultural producers until its government diminished the ability of the country to sustain its industrial or agricultural production. Illegal and disruptive land seizures resulted in political cronies gaining control of productive agricultural land rather than the black farm workers as promised. Agricultural production suffered, dragging down manufacturers of agricultural equipment—the base of the country's industry. The reduction in tax revenues led to a desperate search for foreign funding to stabilize an economy whose inflation rate reached globally historic levels.

Nevertheless, Zimbabwe is a major player in southern Africa, even more so now that newly reelected President Robert Mugabe has been chosen as Vice Chairman of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the organization's anticipated Chairman next year. Facing international appeals for an end to sanctions on Zimbabwe and threats from the

Mugabe government of economic retaliation, the U.S. must devise a policy that safeguards American interests while maintaining our support for democracy, human rights, good governance and economic development. Today's hearing will examine how the process of policy formation is going now and discuss what that policy should look like at the conclusion of that process.

The United States has experienced a troubled relationship with Zimbabwe since this southern African nation achieved majority rule in 1980. Robert Mugabe, the liberation leader who has led his country since 1980, has always resented that our government did not support his war against the previous white minority government. Despite our efforts to establish a mutually beneficial relationship with Mugabe's government over the past couple of decades, his regime has spurned our hand of friendship and flouted international law and convention.

Using colonial-era laws as models, Mugabe's government has eliminated the possibility that the political opposition can credibly challenge his rule. It has limited the ability of the media to effectively report on the news of the day. It has restricted civil society advocates from documenting and verifying the many human rights violations that have taken place in Mugabe's Zimbabwe.

When Congress passed the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001, or ZDERA, it set out a range of aid restrictions requiring U.S. representatives on the boards of international financial institutions to vote against loans or debt cancellations benefitting the Zimbabwean government, pending fulfillment of a range of conditions based on repeal of the limitations on the freedom of Zimbabweans.

Recent annual appropriations laws also have barred U.S. support for international loans or grants to the government, except to meet basic human needs or to promote democracy. Generally, bilateral aid is prohibited, except that pertaining to health, humanitarian needs, education, or macroeconomic growth. Such prohibitions are maintained unless the Secretary of State certifies that "the rule of law has been restored . . . including respect for ownership and title to property, freedom of speech and association."

However, Mugabe's August 22, 2013 inauguration marked the end of a five-year period of often uneasy political power sharing with the opposition and partially fulfilled reforms pursued by the Government of National Unity under the Global Political Agreement. The end of the unity government means that unless a deal is struck with the ruling ZANU-PF party, its former partner in government, the opposition MDC-T party will likely no longer play a role in executive branch policy-making.

Past patterns of ZANU-PF governance, along with recent actions by ruling party officials and the MDC-T's new marginalization, indicate that Zimbabwe may be entering a period characterized by a pattern of unilateral exercise of state power potentially accompanied by manipulation of the rule of law in its favor; a lack of national political consensus and the absence of vehicles for alternatives to ZANU-PF policies; continued restrictions on the activities of civil society organizations and opposition activists, including legal and extralegal harassment and violence both by the police and by ZANU-PF supporters, and weak eco-

nomie growth due to ZANU-PF's pursuit of a nationalist economic agenda focusing on state interventions in the economy.

The Mugabe government has long blamed the United States and Great Britain for hampering its economic growth due to sanctions, but aside from direct aid limitations, most sanctions are targeted toward Mugabe and his government's leadership. SADC is now calling for a removal of sanctions against Zimbabwe and is being joined by a growing international chorus that includes a few voices from within the Congress of the United States. Meanwhile, President Mugabe has threatened to punish Western firms operating in Zimbabwe unless sanctions are lifted.

But questions remain about the willingness of the Mugabe government to take the steps necessary to rescind U.S. sanctions. If Zimbabwe takes a defiant stand, where does that leave U.S.-Zimbabwe relations? The Administration has tried limited relaxation of sanctions only to be met with continued refusal to accept reform. Where does this leave U.S. policy?

However problematic our relationship with Zimbabwe has been, we need to devise a policy that fulfills our national interests, protects the human rights of Zimbabweans and enables this former industrial power to resume its rightful role in Africa's economy and the global economy as a whole.

IN HONOR OF LYNN RHYMER

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2013 North Carolina Principal of the year, Lynn Rhymer.

Ms. Rhymer, who lives in Cabarrus County and is originally from Asheville, N.C., is currently the principal at Central Cabarrus High School in Cabarrus County, N.C.

She has served in education for the past 25 years, dedicating 15 years as a high school mathematics teacher and basketball coach and the past 10 years as an administrator.

She first received her bachelor's degree in mathematics and a teaching certificate from Western Carolina University. Since receiving her master's degree in school administration from Appalachian State University, Ms. Rhymer has served as an assistant principal and principal.

She began her career as principal at Northwest Cabarrus High School, transforming it within three years from a failing school to the sixth best for the state of N.C. as ranked by U.S. News & World Report. She is in her seventh year as principal and loves the time she gets to spend with staff and students.

When asked about her profession, Ms. Rhymer simply states, "I wouldn't do anything else in the world than what I'm doing now. This is my fate, and it's a pretty amazing job."

As the son of a school teacher, I understand that education is imperative for the future of our nation, and I appreciate Ms. Rhymer's dedication to our students. Her success serves as an example to other teachers in North Carolina and across the nation.

The students of the Eighth District of North Carolina are fortunate to have administrators,

teachers and mentors like Ms. Rhymer who recognize the importance of building a culture where every student can succeed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, on Monday September 9, 2013, I missed rollcall No. 448. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.” I was at the classified briefing on Syria in which Members of Congress were briefed by Secretary Kerry, Secretary Hagel, General Dempsey, and National Security Advisor Rice.

HONORING THE MONK FAMILY
FARM

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 185th anniversary of the Monk farm’s founding in Worth County, Georgia.

As one of the Georgia Centennial farm recipients, this farm is one of Georgia’s historic landmarks and a beloved and cherished part of our past.

In 1828, a newly married William and Alcy Monk built a home on a hill in what was to become southern Worth County. William would eventually come to purchase plots of land totaling almost 2000 acres, where he would cultivate sugar cane, tobacco, and cotton. The beginnings of the Monk farm are in many ways, reminiscent of Georgia—and America’s—agricultural heritage.

Beginning in the early 1900’s, it saw recent Mercer Law School graduate and later State Court Judge Chesley Monk practice law farm the property for over 50 consecutive years. It saw naval officer Ridley Monk return home to operate the farm after fighting World War Two in the Pacific. And it has even seen—and was home to—the very first farming tractor in Worth County.

But the Monk farm is not only a story of the past; it also embodies the story of Georgia’s growth. Despite its success, however, it has remained in the Monk family for six generations, and has filled the farm with countless memories. Though the Monk family’s dreams and careers have taken them near and far away, the farm and the family’s devotion to it remain.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm that I congratulate the Monk family on their farm’s long-standing place in Georgia’s—and America’s—rich historic past. Here’s to their place in the next 185 years of American history.